



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

⑪ Publication number:

0 356 210
A2

⑫

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

⑬ Application number: 89308519.1

⑮ Int. Cl.⁵: C 11 D 3/37

⑭ Date of filing: 23.08.89

⑩ Priority: 26.08.88 US 236864 21.02.89 US 312158

⑪ Date of publication of application:
28.02.90 Bulletin 90/09

⑫ Designated Contracting States:
BE DE ES FR GB NL

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⑯ Method of enhancing fabric rewettability.

⑰ A method of enhancing the rewettability of fabrics treated in a laundering operation in which the fabrics are contacted with a mixture including a rinse cycle fabric softening conditioning composition capable of producing on the fabrics a hydrophobic surface and a hydrophobic cationic emulsion of a silicone polymer. Preferably, the fabric softening conditioning composition includes a cationic compound selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts and organic based compounds having C₁₂ to C₁₈ hydrocarbon chain molecules of amines, esters, acids or amine oxides and the silicone polymer is a highly branched and crosslinked polydimethylsiloxane.

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Description**METHOD OF ENHANCING FABRIC REWETTABILITY**

A fabric softener is a dilute solution or dispersion of a quaternary ammonium derivative used to treat fabrics in the final rinse of a laundering process in order to make the fabrics feel softer. In addition to softness, fabric softeners are known to also provide fluffiness control. Because of the affinity of quaternary ammonium compounds for negatively charged surfaces, their single largest market has been as fabric softeners. Commercial fabric softeners generally include about a four to eight percent dispersion of quaternary ammonium compound which is added to the rinse cycle of the washing process. The quaternary ammonium compound can also be applied to a nonwoven sheet or a polyurethane foam which is added with wet clothes in a dryer. Such sheets contain a fatty acid ester which allows the quaternary ammonium compound to transfer from the sheet to the clothes in the dryer during the drying cycle. Recently, there have been devised combined detergent and softener formulations which allow introduction of all additives in the wash cycle.

Modern washing machines work automatically and the operator places the laundry in the machine, pours in the detergent and sets the controls. One set of controls determines whether the machine employs hot, warm, or cold water. Water enters the machine through hoses connected to the hot and cold water pipes. The operator also sets controls in order to select the length of washing and rinsing time and the amount of water that enters the machine. The machine is powered by an electric motor and includes a filter that removes lint and automatic dispensers for bleach and fabric softeners. A wash cycle typically includes four stages. In the wash cycle, after water fills the wash tub, an agitator reverses direction alternately and moves the laundry through the water and detergent and forces water through the items of laundry. The washer is then emptied of all of the wash liquor in the spin cycle and the clothes are spun to remove excess water. In the rinse cycle, clean water is added along with the fabric softener and the clothes are again agitated. The washer is emptied of rinse liquor and the clothes are spun in a final spin cycle during which time excess water is removed and pumped out of the machine through a drain hose. The clothing is then ready to be removed from the machine and dried in a dryer or hung on a clothesline until dry.

Silicone polymers can be classified as being linear, branched or crosslinked. This classification is commonly accepted and is used in the silicone industry. Branched or crosslinked silicone polymers are prepared by the incorporation of an alkyl trisiloxyl unit into the siloxane polymer chain. Crosslinking results when two alkyl trisiloxyl units are connected by a segment of the polymer chain during the polymerization process. The number of polymer branches which react with another polymer (or a different alkyl trisiloxyl unit on the same polymer) to form crosslinks is a function of the amount of alkyl trisiloxyl units present and the reaction conditions. It is generally accepted in the industry that the inclusion of alkyl trisiloxyl units will lead to branching and crosslinking when polydiorganosiloxane is prepared via addition polymerization. Because of the random nature of this polymerization, however, alkyl trisiloxyl groups will not be incorporated into all of the polymer chains; some linear polymers will normally be present in such systems. Incorporation of a methyl trisiloxyl unit into a polydimethylsiloxane results in a branched and crosslinked siloxane and not a linear siloxane. The use of the branched and crosslinked fluids in a rinse cycle fabric softener is not taught in the prior art since the incorporation of a trisiloxyl unit into the linear siloxane polymer chain creates a branched and crosslinked siloxane that has significantly different properties. For example, linear siloxanes are soluble in toluene whereas branched and crosslinked siloxanes are not. Thus, a toluene solubility test provides a simple method to distinguish between linear and nonlinear polydimethylsiloxanes. In addition to differences in solubility, linear and nonlinear polydimethylsiloxanes exhibit different physical properties. Linear polydimethylsiloxanes are liquids which exhibit viscous flow, even at high molecular weights. Branched or crosslinked polydimethylsiloxanes of comparable molecular weight are elastomers. The properties of the silicone polymer in a water-based emulsion is conveniently determined by "breaking" the emulsion by adding large amounts of salt or alcohol, or evaporating the water and examining the residue. Since the two classes of siloxane polymers have such significant differences in physical properties, it would not be obvious to substitute a branched and crosslinked siloxane for a linear siloxane in fabric softener applications.

In accordance with the present invention, therefore, a branched and crosslinked silicone emulsion is employed in contrast to the linear material of the prior art. More importantly, it has been found that the use of an emulsion of nonlinear silicone provides certain advantages neither taught nor previously appreciated. For example, softener treated fabrics in accordance with the present invention possess enhanced rewettability or improved water absorbercy, in addition to softness. Thus, while there has been previously observed a series of benefits resulting from the incorporation in the softener formulation of a linear silicone material, the rewettability property of the present invention was not one of the benefits discovered, nor the feature of branching or crosslinking in general. In the present invention, therefore, water absorptivity or rewettability of fabrics treated with hydrophobic softening agents is significantly improved, as is softening by the use of branched and crosslinked silicone fluid emulsions. The use of hydrophobic silicones as taught herein to improve water absorbercy of treated fabrics is unexpected since silicones are considered to provide water repellency properties to fabrics rather than enhanced rewettability. Thus, the opposite result would be expected. Accordingly, the present invention provides compositions and methods of fabric treatment possessing significant advantages over prior art materials and processes.

This invention relates to a method of enhancing the rewettability of fabrics treated in a laundering operation

by contacting the fabrics with a mixture including a rinse cycle fabric softening conditioning composition capable of producing on the fabrics a hydrophobic surface and a hydrophobic cationic emulsion of a silicone polymer.

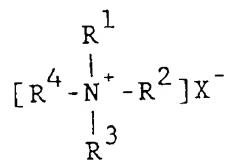
The invention also relates to a method of enhancing the rewettability or water absorbency of fabrics treated in a laundering operation by contacting the fabrics with a hydrophobic cationic emulsion of a silicone polymer, the silicone polymer including highly branched and crosslinked polydimethylsiloxane fluids.

The invention further relates to a fabric softening composition for enhancing the rewettability of fabrics treated in a laundering operation which is a mixture including a rinse cycle conditioning composition capable of producing on the fabrics a hydrophobic surface and a hydrophobic cationic emulsion of a branched and crosslinked silicone polymer. In preferred embodiments, the rinse cycle conditioning composition includes a cationic compound selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts and organic based compounds having C₁₂ to C₁₈ hydrocarbon chain molecules of amines, esters, acids or amine oxides. As noted above, the branched and crosslinked silicone polymer is a highly branched and crosslinked polydimethylsiloxane and the branched and crosslinked silicone polymer includes less than about forty percent of linear silicone polymer as determined by extraction with toluene. The cationic compound of the rinse cycle conditioning composition preferably constitutes from about four percent to about eight percent by weight of the rinse cycle conditioning composition and the mixture contains from about one-half of one percent to about six percent by weight of the silicone polymer emulsion. The emulsion of the silicone polymer contains about thirty-five percent by weight of active ingredient, and the cationic compound of the rinse cycle conditioning composition is dihydrogenated-tallow dimethyl ammonium chloride in a specific embodiment. The emulsion of the silicone polymer is preferably aqueous.

It is, therefore, the object of the present invention to not only treat fabrics such as towels, for example, in order to make them feel softer and fluffier, but in addition, to enhance the rewettability of the towel so that the towel will be capable of absorbing more water at the conclusion of the treating and drying cycles normally encountered in their routine daily usage.

These and other features, objects and advantages, of the herein described present invention will become apparent when considered in conjunction with the following detailed description of the present invention.

Ammonium compounds in which all of the hydrogen atoms have been substituted by alkyl groups are called quaternary ammonium salts. These compounds may be represented in a general sense by the formula:



The nitrogen atom includes four covalently bonded substituents that provide a cationic charge. The R groups can be any organic substituent that provides for a carbon and nitrogen bond with similar and dissimilar groups. The counterion X is typically halogen. Use of quaternary ammonium compounds is based on the lipophilic portion of the molecule which bears a positive charge. Since most surfaces are negatively charged, solutions of these cationic surface active agents are readily adsorbed to the negatively charged surface.

In accordance with the present invention, the hydrophobic softening agent can include quaternary ammonium salts and specifically any of the cationic compounds described in British Patent No. 1,549,180, such as quaternary mono-ammonium compounds having either two C₁₂-C₂₀ alkyl chains or one C₁₈-C₂₄ alkyl chain; quaternary imidazolium textile softeners; polyammonium compounds; fabric softening polyamine salts; fully substituted polyquaternary compounds; and polyalkylene imine salts. Particular quaternary ammonium compounds suitable for use herein may include, for example, trimethyltallowammonium chloride, trimethylsoyaammonium chloride, trimethylcocoammonium chloride, dimethylidicocoammonium chloride, trimethylhydrogenated tallowammonium chloride, trimethyldodecylammonium chloride, trimethyloctadecylammonium chloride, trimethylhexadecylammonium chloride, dimethylalkylbenzylammonium chloride, 1:1 mixture of trimethyltallowammonium chloride and dimethylidicocoammonium chloride, N,N,N',N'-pentamethyl-N-tallow-1,3-propanediammonium dichloride, methylbis(2-hydroxyethyl)cocoammonium chloride, methylmethylpolyoxyethylene cocoammonium chloride, methylbis(2-hydroxyethyl)oleylammonium chloride, methylpolyoxyethylene oleylammonium chloride, methylbis(2-hydroxyethyl)oleylammonium chloride, methylbis(2-hydroxyethyl)octadecylammonium chloride, methylpolyoxyethylene octadecylammonium chloride, n-dodecyl tetradecyl dimethylbenzylammonium chloride, n-tetradecyl hexadecyl dimethylbenzylammonium chloride, n-dodecyl tetradecyl dimethylchlorobenzylammonium chloride, n-octadecyl dimethylbenzylammonium chloride, dialkylmethylbenzylammonium chloride, n-dodecyl tetradecyl hexadecyl dimethylbenzylammonium chloride, n-dodecyl tetradecyl hexadecyl dimethylethylbenzylammonium chloride, methyl sulfate quaternary of

laundry operation are primarily highly branched and crosslinked polydimethylsiloxane and substituents

derivatives, such as organofunctional silicones. The resulting enhanced rewettability is independent of the siloxane molecular weight. If the silicone polymer is substituted with organofunctional groups, the resulting polymer must be hydrophobic to improve rewettability. The hydrophobic silicones are delivered to the fabric as an emulsion. The silicone emulsions can be used alone or formulated into a fabric conditioning composition, such as a rinse cycle fabric softener. The quaternary ammonium salt based type of rinse cycle fabric softeners are preferred.

5 While the following examples are combinations of quaternary based softeners with silicone emulsions, the silicone compositions will improve water absorbancy when used in combination with any organic based fabric 10 conditioning composition that produces a hydrophobic surface, such as organic conditioning compositions comprised of long hydrocarbon C₁₂-C₁₈ chain molecules of amines, esters, acids, amine oxides and derivatives thereof.

15 The polydimethylsiloxanes used herein are high molecular weight branched and crosslinked polymers having a molecular weight of at least 100,000 and a viscosity above 50,000 centistokes. The viscosity of such a polydimethylsiloxane is highly dependent on the degree of branching and crosslinking present in the polymer. 20 When the ratio of alkyl trisiloxy units to dimethyl siloxy units exceeds about 1:100, the polymer can no longer be considered a fluid with a measurable viscosity; it is an elastomer. The siloxane polymers of the present invention are generally terminated by a hydroxyl group. Endblocking species such as trimethyl siloxy units are not included in the compositions of the present invention because this would prevent the polymer from reaching the desired molecular weight. The polymers can be prepared by various techniques such as the hydrolysis and subsequent condensation of dimethyldihalosilanes, or by the cracking and subsequent condensation of dimethylcyclosiloxanes. The polymer can be based on a branched and crosslinked silicone made by the addition of branching units of methyl trimethoxysilane to polydimethylsiloxane by conventional techniques, in a preferred mode.

25 **Example I**

Towels were prepared for treatment by removing the mill textile conditioners applied at the mill during manufacture of the towels. The process was conducted at a commercial laundromat. Bundles of 86:14 cotton polyester terry towels were washed three times with a 9.8% phosphorous containing Tide® detergent followed by three washes with a 0.5% phosphorus containing Tide®. Tide® is an anionic detergent and a trademark of 30 the Procter & Gamble Company, Cincinnati, Ohio. The towels were subjected to a final wash and rinse cycle from which detergent was omitted, in order to remove any residual detergent. The treatments were conducted in a Whirlpool Imperial Seventy washing machine. The Cycle Setting was Heavy/14 minutes. The Cloth to Liquor Ratio was 1:23. The Wash Temperature was Warm (32°C.). The Rinse Temperature was Cold (11°C.). The Detergent Concentration was 0.14% detergent by weight of wash liquor. The Dryer was a Whirlpool model with 35 a Dryer Setting of Permanent Press-High Drying, at a time of 55 minutes.

The test used to measure softness was a panel test in which ten people were asked to rank several towels in order of softness, one being a control towel which had not been treated with a softening agent. The towels were treated by the method described above. Following treatment, the towels were placed in a constant temperature and humidity room over night and tested the following day. Ten people were asked to evaluate the 40 towels by feeling the towels and choosing the harshest towel, the softest towel and placing the remaining towels in order of increasing softness. The towels were assigned a numerical ranking with the highest value corresponding to the softest towel. Since the softness of a towel increases with repeated handling, a new surface of each towel was exposed for each panel member and each towel was replaced after evaluation by three people. The resulting rankings were averaged to provide a single integer for each treatment.

45 The rewettability or water absorbency of the treated towels was determined by the wicking method in which strips of fabric are suspended in a solution of water soluble dye and the height of migration of the dye solution is measured over a specified time. The greater height of migration of the dye solution up the fabric is indicative of better rewet properties.

The height to which the dye solution had risen was measured after the strip had been immersed for four 50 minutes and the variability of the test method was +/- 6.9 mm.

Fabric softener formulations containing varying amounts of an emulsion of highly branched and crosslinked 55 silicone polymer were evaluated for softening and rewettability. As noted above, terry towels of 86:14 cotton/polyester were treated with detergent and softeners were added in the rinse cycle at a softener/fabric weight ratio of 1:30. Each of the formulations employed included five percent dihydrogenated tallow dimethylammonium chloride(DTDMAC), the active ingredient of a quaternary ammonium salt commercial fabric softener dispersion, manufactured by Sherex Chemical Company, Dublin, Ohio, as ADOGEN® 442, a trademark of that company; together with varying amounts of the composition of the present invention in amounts of one, two, four and six percent concentrations, respectively. One control of DTDMAC without the 60 composition of the present invention was employed for comparative purposes. The five percent DTDMAC quaternary ammonium salt softener was prepared by melting dihydrogenated tallow dimethylammonium chloride and adding the molten material to hot water under agitation. The softener was stirred until cool. Sodium chloride was included in order to lower the viscosity and ethanol was added in order to assist in solubilizing the softener. The composition of the present invention included therein was a thirty-five percent aqueous hydrophobic cationic emulsion of a highly branched and crosslinked polydimethylsiloxane fluid 65 including less than about forty percent of linear silicone polymer. A series of five treatments were conducted

and evaluations were made following the first, third and fifth treatments. Average softness rankings are set forth in Table I.

TABLE I

COMPOSITION		TREATMENT		
<u>% Softener*</u>	<u>Silicone %</u>	<u>No. I</u>	<u>No. III</u>	<u>No. V</u>
100	---	1.9	1.2	1.0
99	1.0	3.0	2.6	2.3
98	2.0	3.2	3.7	3.7
96	4.0	3.6	4.5	4.0
94	6.0	3.3	3.0	4.0

* = 50% DTDMAC

It should be apparent from Table I that the softener ingredient containing the higher levels of the compositions of the present invention imparted the best softness. The rewettability of each of the foregoing is set forth in Table II and it should be pointed out, that the average rewettability imparted to each fabric was enhanced by the softeners including the compositions of the present invention.

TABLE II

COMPOSITION		<u>REWETTABILITY mm/4</u>
<u>% Softener*</u>	<u>Silicone %</u>	<u>minutes</u>
100	---	42
99	1.0	53
98	2.0	55
96	4.0	57
94	6.0	58

* = 50% DTDMAC

Example II

Example I was repeated except that the softener DTDMAC was replaced by a commercial grade rinse cycle fabric softening product. The product was an aqueous dispersion of fabric softening agents including about five percent DTDMAC as the active softening agent. The branched and crosslinked composition of the present invention employed in Example I was again used in this example. The results are set forth in Table III.

TABLE III

COMPOSITION		TREATMENT		
<u>% Softener*</u>	<u>Silicone %</u>	<u>No. I</u>	<u>No. III</u>	<u>No. V</u>
100	---	3.3	2.6	4.1
99.5	0.5	3.9	2.4	1.8
99	1.0	2.3	3.5	3.6
98	2.0	2.9	4.7	4.8
96	4.0	5.1	4.7	3.0

* = Dispersion which contains 50% DTDMAC as the active softening agent.

The rewettability of each of the foregoing is set forth in Table IV and it should be pointed out, that the average rewettability imparted to each fabric was enhanced by the softeners including the compositions of the present invention.

TABLE IV

5	COMPOSITION		REWETTA- BILITY mm/4 minutes
	% Softener*	Silicone %	
10	100	---	37
	99.5	0.5	49
	99	1.0	47
	98	2.0	58
	96	4.0	58

* = See Table III.

15

Example III

Example II was repeated again using the commercial grade rinse cycle fabric softening product of Example II which was an aqueous dispersion of fabric softening agents including five percent DTDMAC as the active softening agent. For purposes of comparison, there was employed a series of emulsions of silicone compositions having varying amounts of linear siloxane content. These emulsions were added to the commercial softener at a level of two percent by weight. The silicone emulsions contained mixtures of linear and nonlinear siloxanes with the percentage of linear polymers ranging from about twelve percent to about thirty-five percent indicating a branched and crosslinked siloxane content ranging from about sixty-five percent to as high as eighty-eight percent. The linear polymer content for the emulsions was determined by toluene extraction of dried samples of emulsion. The results are set forth in Tables V and VI.

TABLE V

30	COMPOSITION		%Branching/ Crosslinking	TREATMENT		
	%Silicone	%Softener*		No. I	No. III	No. V
35	2	98	---	4.0	2.9	2.5
	2	98	65	3.5	3.2	3.1
	2	98	65	3.8	4.2	4.6
	2	98	88	2.7	4.2	3.9
	2	98	65	5.2	3.8	3.7

40

* = See Table III.

45

The rewettability of each of the foregoing is set forth in Table VI and it should be pointed out, that the average rewettability imparted to each fabric was enhanced by the softeners including the branched and crosslinked compositions of the present invention.

TABLE VI

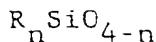
50	COMPOSITION			REWET- TABILITY mm/4 minutes
	%Silicone	%Sof- tener*	%Branch- ing/Cross- linking	
55	2	98	---	43
	2	98	65	56
	2	98	65	58
	2	98	88	59
	2	98	65	51

60

* = See Table III.

65

The branched and crosslinked silicone polymers employed herein and methods for their preparation are described in more or less detail in U.S. Patent No. 2,891,920, issued June 23, 1959. These materials can be any organosiloxane of the formula:



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in which R is selected from the group consisting of monovalent hydrocarbon radicals, halogenated monovalent hydrocarbon radicals and hydrogen atoms; and in which n is an integer having an average value of from one to less than three. However, for purposes of illustration, a procedure for the preparation of a representative branched and crosslinked silicone polymer of the present invention is set forth in the following examples.

5

Example IV

88 grams of a 27% water solution of tallow trimethyl ammonium chloride was added to 535 grams of water until a uniform mixture was obtained. To this mixture was added 350 grams of octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane and 6.5 grams of methyl trimethoxysilane followed by vigorous stirring. The resulting emulsion was passed twice through a homogenizer set at 7500 psig. The emulsion was then made alkaline by the addition of 1 gram of a 50% sodium hydroxide solution. The emulsion was heated at 85°C. for 9 hours. After cooling to 40°C., 1.5 grams of 85% phosphoric acid was added and stirred for 5 minutes followed by the addition of MAKON® 10, a nonyl phenoxy-polyethylene oxide surfactant. The emulsion was allowed to stir for 1 hour at 40°C. Upon cooling to room temperature, 0.5 grams of KATHON® CG/ICP, a preservative, was added.

10

Whereas Example IV is specific to methyl trimethoxysilane, branching may also be obtained with materials such as $(CH_3O)_3Si(CH_2)_3NHCH_2CH_2NH_2$ and $(CH_3O)_3Si(CH_2)_3N^+(CH_3)_2(CH_2)_{17}CH_3Cl^-$.

15

Compositions prepared in accordance with Example IV, when tested in accordance with the procedures of Example II, yielded the following rewettability data.

20

TABLE VII

25

TREATMENTS	REWETTABILITY mm/4 minutes
1	62
2	42
3	56
4	58
5	58
6	62

30

Additional compositions prepared as in Example IV were further tested in accordance with the procedure of Example II except that instead of employing the aqueous dispersion of softening agents including 5% DTDMAC, there was used two commercial rinse cycle fabric softening products marketed for home use. Both products are manufactured by Lever Brothers Company, New York, New York and sold under the trademarks SNUGGLE® and FINAL TOUCH®. Data from these tests are set forth hereinbelow.

35

40

TABLE VIII

45

COMPOSITION % Softener*	Sili- cone %	TREATMENT	
		No. I	No. III
100	---	4.5	4.0
99.5	0.5	3.8	4.8
99	1.0	3.1	2.7
98	2.0	4.6	4.5
96	4.0	3.8	4.0

50

* = FINAL TOUCH®

55

60

TABLE IX

5	COMPOSITION		TREATMENT	
	% Softener*	Sili- cone %	No. I	No. III
10	100	---	4.1	3.75
	99.5	0.5	3.2	3.75
	99	1.0	5.3	4.17
	98	2.0	2.8	3.5
	96	4.0	4.6	1.93

* = SNUGGLE®

15

TABLE X

20	COMPOSITION		REWETTABILITY mm/4	
	% Softener*	Sili- cone %	Minutes	
		TREATMENT		
25	100	---	No. I	No. III
	99.5	0.5	48	37
	99	1.0	48.5	51
	98	2.0	50	54
	96	4.0	48	55
30	100	---	51	54.5

* = FINAL TOUCH®

35

TABLE XI

40	COMPOSITION		REWETTABILITY mm/4	
	% Softener*	Sili- cone %	Minutes	
		TREATMENT		
45	100	---	No. I	No. III
	99.5	0.5	31	31.5
	99	1.0	40	44
	98	2.0	47.5	51.5
	96	4.0	48	51.5
50	100	---	50	52

* = SNUGGLE®

50

A procedure for the preparation of another representative branched and crosslinked silicone polymer of the present invention is set forth in the following examples.

Example V

55 88 grams of a 27% water solution of tallow trimethyl ammonium chloride was added to 535 grams of water until a uniform mixture was obtained. To this mixture was added 350 grams of octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane and 7.5 grams of methyl trimethoxysilane followed by vigorous stirring. The resulting emulsion was passed twice through a homogenizer set at 7500 psig. The emulsion was then made alkaline by the addition of 1 gram of a 50% sodium hydroxide solution. The emulsion was heated at 85°C. for 9 hours. After cooling to 40°C., 1.5 grams of 85% phosphoric acid was added and stirred for 5 minutes followed by the addition of MAKON® 10, a nonyl phenoxy-polyethylene oxide surfactant. The emulsion was allowed to stir for 1 hour at 40°C. Upon cooling to room temperature, 0.5 grams of KATHON® CG/ICP, a preservative, was added.

60 Compositions prepared in accordance with Example V, were tested in accordance with the procedures of Example II, except that SNUGGLE® was again employed and such tests yielded the following data.

65

TABLE XII

COMPOSITION % Softener*	Sili- cone %	TREATMENT	
		No. I	No. III
100	---	3.55	3.0
98	2.0	3.82	3.8

* = SNUGGLE®

5

10

TABLE XIII

COMPOSITION % Softener*	Sili- cone %	REWETTABILITY mm/4 Minutes	
		No. I	No. III
100	---	35	40.5
98	2.0	53	51

* = SNUGGLE®

15

A further procedure for the preparation of an additional representative branched and crosslinked silicone polymer of the present invention is set forth in the following examples.

25

Example VI

88 grams of a 27% water solution of tallow trimethyl ammonium chloride was added to 535 grams of water until a uniform mixture was obtained. To this mixture was added 350 grams of octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane and 35.0 grams of methyl trimethoxysilane followed by vigorous stirring. The resulting emulsion was passed twice through a homogenizer set at 7500 psig. The emulsion was then made alkaline by the addition of 1 gram of a 50% sodium hydroxide solution. The emulsion was heated at 85°C. for 9 hours. After cooling to 40°C., 1.5 grams of 85% phosphoric acid was added and stirred for 5 minutes followed by the addition of MAKON® 10, a nonyl phenoxy-polyethylene oxide surfactant. The emulsion was allowed to stir for 1 hour at 40°C. Upon cooling to room temperature, 0.5 grams of KATHON® CG/ICP, a preservative, was added.

30

Compositions prepared in accordance with Example VI, were tested in accordance with the procedures of Example II, again using SNUGGLE® and yielded the following data.

35

TABLE XIV

COMPOSITION % Softener*	Sili- cone %	TREATMENT	
		No. I	No. III
100	---	3.55	3.0
98	2.0	3.55	3.4

* = SNUGGLE®

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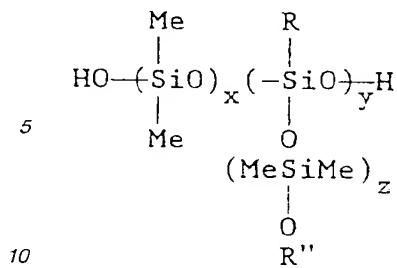
TABLE XV

COMPOSITION % Softener*	Sili- cone %	REWETTABILITY mm/4 Minutes	
		No. I	No. III
100	---	35	40.5

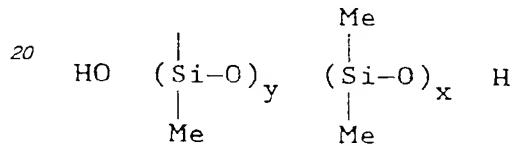
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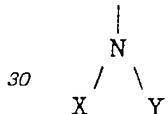
SNUGGLE® is a registered trademark of the Clorox Company. The following is a representative formula.



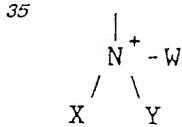
wherein:
 Me is methyl;
 x and z have values of 3 to 100,000;
 15 y has a value of 1 to 10,000;
 R is $(\text{CH}_2)_n Z$;
 R'' is hydrogen or



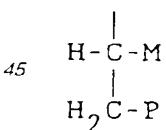
25 n has a value of 1 to 10;
 Z is



whereby X and Y are selected independently, -H; -C₁₋₃₀-alkyl; -C₆-aryl; -C₅₋₆-cycloalkyl; -C₁₋₆-NH₂; -CO-R'; with the proviso that the nitrogen can be quaternized such as to represent



40 whereby W can be selected from X or Y; or Z is



whereby P and M are -COOH; -CO-NR'₂; or C₁₋₂-alkyl; where R' = C₁₋₄ alkyl.

50 It will be apparent from the foregoing that many other variations and modifications may be made in the structures, compounds, compositions and methods described herein without departing substantially from the essential features and concepts of the present invention. Accordingly, it should be clearly understood that the forms of the invention described herein are exemplary only and are not intended as limitations on the scope of the present invention.

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Claims

60 1. The method of enhancing the rewettability of fabrics treated in a laundering operation comprising contacting the fabrics with a mixture including a rinse cycle fabric softening conditioning composition capable of producing a hydrophobic surface on the fabrics and a hydrophobic cationic emulsion of a highly branched and crosslinked silicone polymer, the polymer being an organosiloxane of the formula:

65

$R_n SiO_{4-n}$

2

in which R is selected from the group consisting of monovalent hydrocarbon radicals, halogenated monovalent hydrocarbon radicals and hydrogen atoms; and in which n is an interger having an average value of from one to less than three, the branched and crosslinked silicone polymer including less than about forty percent of linear silicone polymer as determined by extraction with toluene.

5

2. The method of claim 1 in which the fabric softening conditioning composition includes a cationic compound selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts and organic based compounds having C₁₂ to C₁₈ hydrocarbon chain molecules of amines, esters, acids or amine oxides.

10

3. The method of enhancing the rewettability of fabrics treated in a laundering operation comprising contacting the fabrics with a hydrophobic cationic emulsion of a highly branched and crosslinked silicone polymer, the polymer being an organosiloxane of the formula:

15

 $R_n SiO_{4-n}$

2

in which R is selected from the group consisting of monovalent hydrocarbon radicals, halogenated monovalent hydrocarbon radicals and hydrogen atoms; and in which n is an interger having an average value of from one to less than three, the branched and crosslinked silicone polymer being essentially a polydimethylsiloxane, the branched and crosslinked silicone polymer further including less than about forty percent of linear silicone polymer as determined by extraction with toluene.

20

4. A fabric softening composition having rewet properties for enhancing the rewettability of fabrics treated in a laundering operation comprising a mixture including a rinse cycle conditioning composition capable of producing on the fabrics a hydrophobic surface and a hydrophobic cationic emulsion of a highly branched and crosslinked silicone polymer, the polymer being an organosiloxane of the formula:

25

 $R_n SiO_{4-n}$

2

in which R is selected from the group consisting of monovalent hydrocarbon radicals, halogenated monovalent hydrocarbon radicals and hydrogen atoms; and in which n is an interger having an average value of from one to less than three, the branched and crosslinked silicone polymer further including less than about forty percent of linear silicone polymer as determined by extraction with toluene.

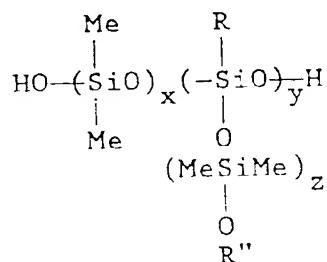
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5. The composition of claim 4 in which the rinse cycle conditioning composition includes a cationic compound selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts and organic based compounds having C₁₂ to C₁₈ hydrocarbon chain molecules of amines, esters, acids or amine oxides.

40

6. The method of enhancing the rewettability of fabrics treated in a laundering operation comprising contacting the fabrics with a mixture including a rinse cycle fabric softening conditioning composition capable of producing on the fabrics a hydrophobic surface and a hydrophobic cationic emulsion of a silicone polymer having the general formula:

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wherein:

Me is methyl;

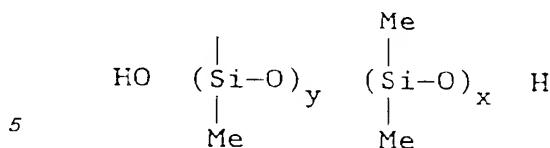
x and z have values of 3 to 100,000;

y has a value of 1 to 10,000;

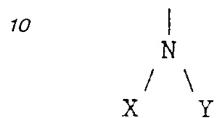
R is (CH₂)_nZ;

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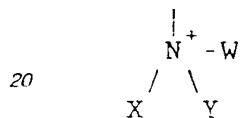
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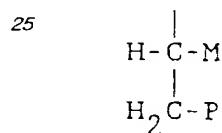
n has a value of 1 to 10;
Z is



15 whereby X and Y are selected independently, -H; -C₁₋₃₀-alkyl; -C₆-aryl; -C₅₋₆-cycloalkyl; -C₁₋₆-NH₂; -CO-R'; with the proviso that the nitrogen can be quaternized such as to represent

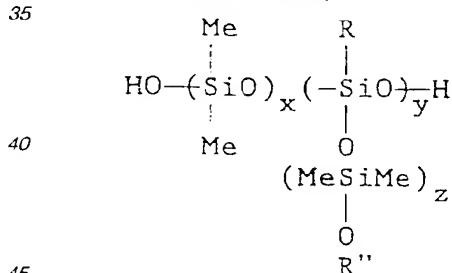


whereby W can be selected from X or Y; or Z is

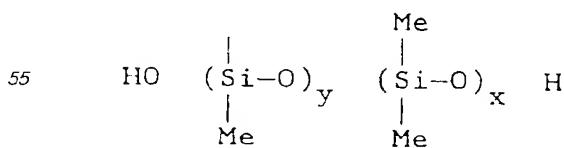


30 whereby P and M are -COOH; -CO-NR'; or C₁₋₂-alkyl; where R' = C₁₋₄ alkyl.

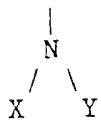
7. The method of enhancing the rewettability of fabrics treated in a laundering operation comprising contacting the fabrics with a hydrophobic cationic emulsion of a silicone polymer, the silicone polymer being a polydimethylsiloxane having the general formula:



45 wherein:
Me is methyl;
x and z have values of 3 to 100.000;
y has a value of 1 to 10,000;
50 R is (CH₂)_zZ;
R'' is hydrogen or

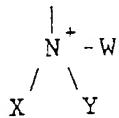


n has a value of 1 to 10;
60 Z is



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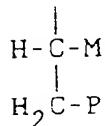
whereby X and Y are selected independently, -H; -C₁₋₃₀-alkyl; -C₆-aryl; -C₅₋₆-cycloalkyl; -C₁₋₆-NH₂; -CO-R'; with the proviso that the nitrogen can be quaternized such as to represent



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whereby W can be selected from X or Y; or Z is

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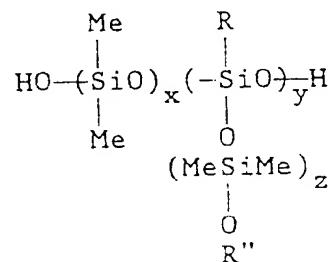


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whereby P and M are -COOH; -CO-NR'₂; or C₁₋₂-alkyl; where R' = C₁₋₄ alkyl.

8. A fabric softening composition having rewet properties for enhancing the rewettability of fabrics treated in a laundering operation comprising a mixture including a rinse cycle conditioning composition capable of producing on the fabrics a hydrophobic surface and a hydrophobic cationic emulsion of a silicone polymer having the general formula:

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wherein:

Me is methyl;

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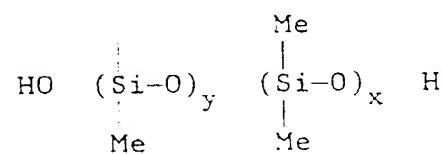
x and z have values of 3 to 100,000;

y has a value of 1 to 10,000;

R is (CH₂)_nZ;

R'' is hydrogen or

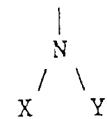
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n has a value of 1 to 10;

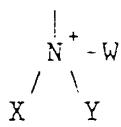
z is



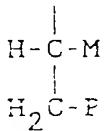
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whereby X and Y are selected independently, -H; -C₁₋₃₀-alkyl; -C₆-aryl; -C₅₋₆-cycloalkyl; -C₁₋₆-NH₂; -CO-R'; with the proviso that the nitrogen can be quaternized such as to represent

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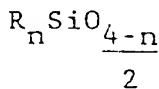


whereby W can be selected from X or Y; or Z is



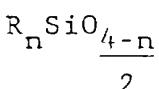
whereby P and M are -COOH; -CO-NR'2; or C₁₋₂-alkyl; where R' = C₁₋₄ alkyl.

15 9. The method of enhancing the rewettability of fabrics treated in a laundering operation comprising contacting the fabrics with a mixture including a rinse cycle fabric softening conditioning composition capable of producing a hydrophobic surface on the fabrics and a hydrophobic cationic emulsion of a highly branched silicone polymer, the polymer being an organosiloxane of the formula:



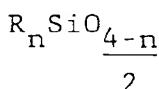
25 in which R is selected from the group consisting of monovalent hydrocarbon radicals, halogenated monovalent hydrocarbon radicals and hydrogen atoms; and in which n is an interger having an average value of from one to less than three.

30 10. The method of enhancing the rewettability of fabrics treated in a laundering operation comprising contacting the fabrics with a hydrophobic cationic emulsion of a highly branched silicone polymer, the polymer being an organosiloxane of the formula:



35 in which R is selected from the group consisting of monovalent hydrocarbon radicals, halogenated monovalent hydrocarbon radicals and hydrogen atoms; and in which n is an interger having an average value of from one to less than three, the branched and crosslinked silicone polymer being essentially a polydimethylsiloxane.

40 11. A fabric softening composition having rewet properties for enhancing the rewettability of fabrics treated in a laundering operation comprising a mixture including a rinse cycle conditioning composition capable of producing on the fabrics a hydrophobic surface and a hydrophobic cationic emulsion of a highly branched silicone polymer, the polymer being an organosiloxane of the formula:



50 in which R is selected from the group consisting of monovalent hydrocarbon radicals, halogenated monovalent hydrocarbon radicals and hydrogen atoms; and in which n is an interger having an average value of from one to less than three.

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(19) Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) Publication number:

0 356 210
A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: 89308519.1

(51) Int. Cl.⁵: C11D 3/37

(22) Date of filing: 23.08.89

(30) Priority: 26.08.88 US 236864
21.02.89 US 312158

(43) Date of publication of application:
28.02.90 Bulletin 90/09

(84) Designated Contracting States:
BE DE ES FR GB NL

(88) Date of deferred publication of the search report:
30.05.90 Bulletin 90/22

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(54) Method of enhancing fabric rewettability.

(57) A method of enhancing the rewettability of fabrics treated in a laundering operation in which the fabrics are contacted with a mixture including a rinse cycle fabric softening conditioning composition capable of producing on the fabrics a hydrophobic surface and a hydrophobic cationic emulsion of a silicone polymer. Preferably, the fabric softening conditioning composition includes a cationic compound selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts and organic based compounds having C₁₂ to C₁₈ hydrocarbon chain molecules of amines, esters, acids or amine oxides and the silicone polymer is a highly branched and crosslinked polydimethylsiloxane.

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EP 89 30 8519

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 5)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages		
Y	FR-A-2 318 268 (PROCTER & GAMBLE E.T.C.) * Page 12, line 12 - Page 18, line 7; claims 1-9 *	1-5, 9-11	C 11 D 3/37
A	---	6-8	
Y	EP-A-0 169 500 (HENKEL KGA) * Pages 15-16; claim 1 *	1-5, 9-11	
A	EP-A-0 046 342 (THE PROCTER & GAMBLE CO.) * Claims 1-4 *	1-5, 9-11	
A	EP-A-0 239 910 (THE PROCTER & GAMBLE CO.) * Claims; page 12, lines 6-20 *	1-11	
		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 5)	
		C 11 D D 06 M	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	07-02-1990	TETAZ F.C.E.	
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